

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4905

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 1883

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP

SUBJ: VISIT TO WASHINGTON OF SPANISH AMBASSADOR -AT-LARGE

ROVIRA AND DIRECTORGENERAL OF NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS

1. THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS INSTRUCTED AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE JUAN JOSE ROVIRA AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS JUAN DURAN TO PROCEED TO WASHINGTON ON SATURDAY, MARCH 13, TO COORDINATE BETWEEN AMBASSADOR ALBA AND MADRID ON THE KING'S VISIT AND ON SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN THE BICENTENNIAL. IT IS POSSIBLE, THOUGH NOT YET DECIDED, THAT FORMER AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S. JAIME ARGUELLES, WHO IS CHAIRMAN OF THE SPANISH BICENTENNIAL COMMISSION, WILL ALSO JOIN THE GROUP FOR DISCUSSIONS ON BICENTENNIAL MATTERS.

2. AMBASSADOR ROVIRA HAS INDICATED TO ME THAT HE AND DURAN WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH CHIEF OF PROTOCOL CATTO TO DISCUSS PLANNING FOR THE KING'S VISIT.

3. COMMENT: AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE THERE IS DISSATISFACTION IN MADRID OVER THE WAY AMBASSADOR ALBA IS DEALING WITH THE KING'S VISIT AND THEREFORE ROVIRA AND DURAN HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO DEAL WITH THE DEPARTMENT ON ALL THE PLANNING FOR THE VISIT. THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS INFORMED ME THAT HE IS MEETING WITH THE KING THIS AFTERNOON TO GO OVER THE PROGRAM AND THEREFORE ROVIRA AND DURAN WILL BEAR WITH THEM PRECISE INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE VISIT PLANNING.

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4. I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT APPOINTMENTS BE MADE FOR ROVIRA AND DURAN BOTH WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN AND WITH AMBASSADOR CATTO. AS ROVIRA AND DURAN ARE LUNCHING WITH ME ON FRIDAY, MARCH 12, IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR ME TO BE ABLE TO TELL THEM THAT THEY HAVE APPOINTMENTS WITH MESSRS. HARTMAN AND CATO.
STABLER

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